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2 IN THE CLAIMS

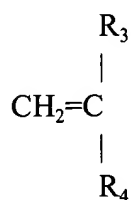
3 1-30. (Cancelled)

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5 31. (Currently Amended) An improved artificial nail composition comprising:

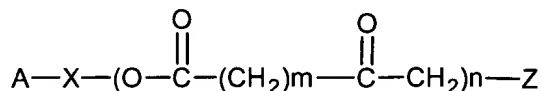
6 (a) ~~from about 0.1-98.5%~~ less than 20% by weight of at least one multicarbonyl-vinyl
7 containing monomer; and

8 (b) from about 5-98% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer.
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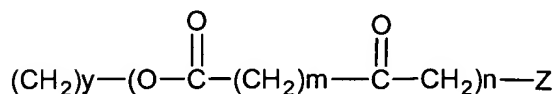
32. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 31, wherein said multicarbonyl-vinyl containing monomer has the formula:



wherein R_3 is H, a C_{1-30} straight or branched chain alkyl, aryl, aralkyl; and R_4 is



or



wherein A =

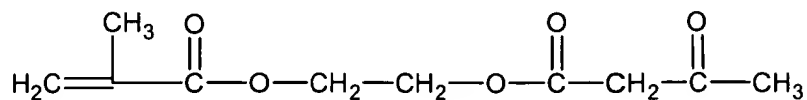


or,



$\text{X} = \text{C}_{1-30}$ straight or branched chain alkyl, m is 1 to 5, n is 1 to 30, y is 0 to 50; and $z = \text{H}$ or a C_{1-30} straight or branched chain alkyl.

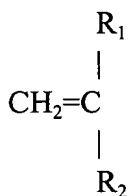
33. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 31, wherein said multicarbonyl-vinyl containing monomer has the formula:



34. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 31, said composition further comprising from about 0.001-5% by weight of a polymerization accelerator.

35. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 34, wherein said polymerization accelerator is selected from the group consisting of aromatic tertiary amines and aliphatic tertiary amines.

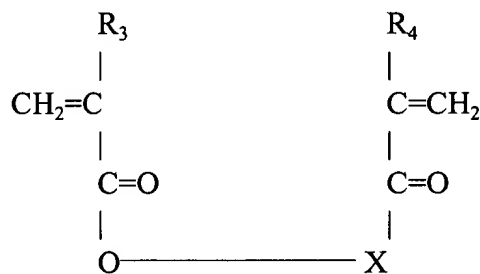
36. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 31, wherein said ethylenically unsaturated monomer has the formula:



wherein R_1 is H, a C_{1-30} straight or branched chain alkyl, aryl, aralkyl; R_2 is a pyrrolidone, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic, alicyclic, or bicyclic ring where the substituents are C_{1-30} straight or branched chain alkyl, or COOM wherein M is H, a C_{1-30} straight or branched chain alkyl, pyrrolidone, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic, alicyclic, or bicyclic ring where the substituents are C_{1-30} straight or branched chain alkyl which may be substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, or $[(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{O}]_n\text{H}$ wherein m is 1-20, and n is 1-200.

1 37. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 31, wherein
2 said ethylenically unsaturated monomer comprises from about 50-98.5% by weight of a methacrylate
3 monomer and from about 3-20% by weight of a hydroxyalkyl methacrylate monomer.
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5 38. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 31, wherein
6 said ethylenically unsaturated monomer is a difunctional monomer having the formula:
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17 wherein R_3 and R_4 are each independently H, a C_{1-30} straight or branch chain alkyl, aryl, or aralkyl; and
18 X is $[(CH_2)_xO_y]_z$ wherein x is 1-20, and y is 1-20, and z is 1-100.
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20 39. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 31, wherein
21 said ethylenically unsaturated monomer is selected from the group consisting of trifunctional acrylates,
22 trifunctional methacrylates, polyfunctional acrylates and polyfunctional methacrylates.
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24 40. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 31, said
25 composition further comprising from about 0.001-5% by weight of a plasticizer.
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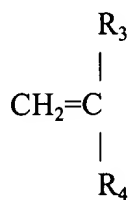
1 41. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 40, wherein
2 said plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of esters, lactones, low volatility solvents, nonionic
3 organic surfactants and silicones.
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5 42. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 31, said
6 composition further comprising a component selected from the group consisting of UV absorbers,
7 stabilizers, colorants, and polymerization regulators.
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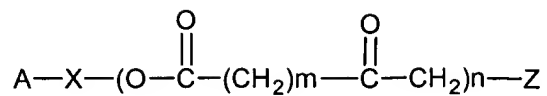
43. (Currently Amended) An improved artificial nail composition comprising:

less than 20% by weight of

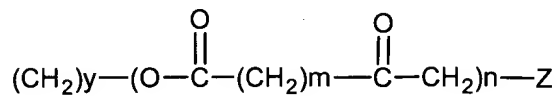
(a)



wherein R_4 is



or



wherein A =

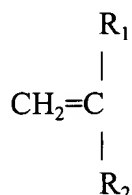


or,



X = C₁₋₃₀ straight or branched chain alkyl, m is 1 to 5, n is 1 to 30, y is 0 to 50; and z = H or a C₁₋₃₀ straight or branched chain alkyl; and from about 5 to 98% by weight of

(b)



wherein R₁ is H, a C₁₋₃₀ straight or branched chain alkyl, aryl, aralkyl; R₂ is a pyrrolidone, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic, alicyclic, or bicyclic ring where the substituents are C₁₋₃₀ straight or branched chain alkyl, or COOM wherein M is H, a C₁₋₃₀ straight or branched chain alkyl, pyrrolidone, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic, alicyclic, or bicyclic ring where the substituents are C₁₋₃₀ straight or branched chain alkyl which may be substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, or [(CH₂)_mO]_nH wherein m is 1-20, and n is 1-200.

44. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 43, said composition further comprising from about 0.001-5% by weight of a polymerization accelerator.

45. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 44, wherein said polymerization accelerator is selected from the group consisting of aromatic tertiary amines and aliphatic tertiary amines.

1 46. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 43, said
2 composition further comprising from about 0.001-5% by weight of a plasticizer.

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4 47. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 43, wherein
5 said plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of esters, low volatility solvents, nonionic organic
6 surfactants and silicones.

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8 48. (Previously presented) An improved artificial nail composition according to claim 43, said
9 composition further comprising a component selected from the group consisting of UV absorbers and
10 polymerization regulators.--